

Torrance, California
September 6, 1955

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on September 6, 1955, at 5:30 P. M., Mayor Isen presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Schwab and Isen. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. George Powell led the salute to our Flag.

The Reverend Milton Sipple opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Schwab moved the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 30, 1955, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objection, so ordered.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Clerk Bartlett read a communication from John R. Quinn, Assessor for the County of Los Angeles requesting early approval for a branch office in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Drale moved that the approval be granted. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, no objections, so ordered.

2. A communication from Mr. and Mrs. James H. Burchett of 1507 El Prado Street requesting removal of Eucalyptus tree.

Councilman Drale moved that the request be granted if Mr. Clemmer agreed that the tree was a problem. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered.

3. A request from three (3) residents of the City of Redondo Beach regarding the alley which is the boundary line of Torrance and Redondo Beach.

After a short discussion, the letter was referred to the Engineering Department for study and recommendations.

4. Recommendation from John V. Russell, Superintendent of Building, that a requested refund of Plumbing Permit fee paid by Mrs. Della Curtis be granted.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Building. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Request from Steve P. Rados, Inc., for permission to use City property for construction yard site while building storm drains in the City of Torrance for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District.

Mayor Isen asked Mr. Stevens his opinion of this request.

City Manager Stevens said that the contractor had said that the property would be cleaned up and left in good order when he was through with it, and that it would serve as a convenience and keep the heavy equipment from using the streets as they would have to do if kept in a service yard further away. Mr. Stevens recommended the request be granted.

Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, so ordered.

6. City Clerk Bartlett read a letter from the Department of Commerce, Civil Aeronautics Administration, saying that they could not conscientiously approve a proposed lease for a community hospital at the Airport.

Councilman Benstead moved that City Manager Stevens be asked to notify the group who want the lease for the hospital of the decision of the CAA. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

Councilman Drale asked that a copy of the letter also be sent to the Airport Commission, and Mayor Isen asked Mr. Stevens if his office would do this.

7. Communication from the Department of Commerce, Civil Aeronautics Administration, saying that the Torrance Airport was not yet ready for tower control.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens if exact copies of this letter could be sent to the Airport Commission. There were no objections, and it was so ordered.

8. A communication from Citizens Anti-Smog Action Committee, Inc., requesting the Council to consider the attached resolution and adopt a similar resolution.

After a short discussion the letter and resolution were referred to City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall for investigation and recommendations.

9. Recommendations from City Manager:

Additional Work Order for Golf Course:

I have investigated the offer of Mr. Anderson for providing the maintenance of lawns installed on the golf course through two normal mowings, for the sum of \$1,300.

Mr. Clemmer states that, based on experience, he believes that his crews could not perform this work much cheaper; also, that although his crews will have to take over the maintenance at a later date, he is not prepared to do so in the early stages. It is his opinion that it is much better to have the contractor, who does the original preparation and planting, maintain the grass through the two mowings, than to have a switch of responsibility after the planting.

In view of the above, I recommend that the additional work order be approved, and that the cost be paid from the Bond Issue Funds.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Change Order:

I recommend that driveways and parking areas in the Park Improvement Projects be constructed of 2" plant-mix surfacing, in lieu of approximately 1" of rock and oil; and that the floors of the utility buildings be constructed of 3-1/2" concrete, in lieu of approximately 1" rock and oil; the change to be made at no additional cost to the City.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PLANNING COMMISSION & ENGINEERING MATTERS:

1. TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. 19517. Transmittal form from Engineering Department and Planning Commission recommending approval of Tentative Tract Map No. 19517, located southerly of 226th Street and westerly of Ocean Avenue, containing 27 lots, presented by Mr. James H. Mulligan. Submitting also certified letter from Mr. James H. Mulligan, subdivider, guaranteeing installation of sewers, and letter from South Bay Engineering Company requesting proposed Tract No. 19517 be approved contingent upon Los Angeles County Flood Control report.

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The subdivider, Mr. Mulligan, was present, and asked that discussion be postponed until his engineer arrived at the meeting. When the engineer did arrive, he said that the person in the Flood Control Office who was in charge of the clearance of this particular tract was on vacation, and that when he returned the required approval would undoubtedly be granted because the builder is going to 75' elevation, which is more than satisfactory.

Councilman Benstead remarked that the Planning Commission Conditions specified that the streets should be 54' wide and not 50' as proposed. The engineer for Mr. Mulligan said this had been corrected and the streets will be 54' wide.

Councilman Blount moved that tentative approval be given the Tract Map contingent upon fulfilling the Special Conditions of the Planning Commission and approval by the County Flood Control District.

Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. Letter from R. W. Bishop, City Engineer, recommending refund of monies in Tract Account (Tract No. 18416) to Long Beach Federal Savings & Loan Association.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens if he concurred with the recommendation. Mr. Stevens replied that a certain sum of money had been left in the bank for the improvement of Crenshaw, which we had estimated would be about \$7700. They put up about \$9500. The contract was awarded and the work was done well within the estimated cost, and this money was left in the bank over and above what was required for the work. Mr. Stevens said the money should be returned because the City did not ask for extra money, but just for the amount required for the job.

There was some discussion among the Councilmen about the refund. Councilman Schwab moved to concur with the recommendation of City Engineer Bishop. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. Letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, submitting easement for drainage purposes, Tract No. 18747, with sketch attached. City Clerk Bartlett read title to

RESOLUTION NO. 2825

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO ACCEPT THAT CERTAIN GRANT OF EASEMENT FROM HOME SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2825. Motion seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Letter from John R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, submitting easement for sanitary sewer purposes along portion of Lot 13 of Tract 845, sketch attached.

RESOLUTION NO. 2826

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO ACCEPT, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, THAT CERTAIN EASEMENT DEED FROM CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN OIL COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION.

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Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2826. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 774

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 695, REPEALING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF SAID ORDINANCE AND ADDING CERTAIN SECTIONS THERETO IN ORDER TO BRING THE FIRE CODE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE UP TO DATE.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 774 at its first reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 775

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 702 TO PROVIDE CERTAIN REGULATORY PROVISIONS RELATIVE TO GROUND SIGNS.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Urgency Ordinance No. 775 at its first and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Stevens asked City Clerk Bartlett to read a letter from George Powell about the Recreation Building in WALTERIA Park. This letter explained that the building had been donated to the City by the WALTERIA Business Men's Association, and that now the building is to be disposed of. The WALTERIA Business Men now petition for permission to move the building, at no expense to the City, to a location which has been donated and which will be fenced, where it will be used as a Youth Center for Boy and Girl Scouts and similar organizations.

Councilman Benstead moved that the building be sold to the WALTERIA Business Men's Association to be used for this purpose for the sum of one dollar (\$1). Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens recommended that the bid for Auditing Services for the 1955-1956 fiscal year by Cotton & Francisco be accepted.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Manager Stevens said that a representative of the Federal Government would like to meet with City Attorney Hall, Mayor Isen, and himself to discuss the Airport. It was agreed that a time for the meeting would be set.

City Manager Stevens requested permission to take his annual vacation beginning within a very few days.

Councilman Blount moved that permission be granted. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen no objections, so ordered.

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Councilman Benstead asked City Attorney Hall if someone was watching the work on Torrance Boulevard to be sure that the trees which had to be removed were given to the City or, if such trees were destroyed, the City was paid for them.

City Attorney Hall replied that trees comparable to the ones removed would be replaced or the City would be reimbursed for the loss of the trees. He asked if this was the basis on which the City Council wants the City to proceed.

Councilman Benstead replied that it is.

Councilman Drale asked City Manager Stevens when the public would be able to buy trash containers such as have been shown to City officials.

Mr. Stevens said that the Junior Chamber of Commerce would meet very soon to discuss this, and that probably they will have these for sale at cost within a short time.

Councilman Drale said that the drainage sump in the tract at 178th and Amie has been filled with dirt, and that he believed the area had been dedicated to the City for a playground and park. He said that there was lumber piled there now, and the people in that area are concerned about this. They want the land for a playground for their children.

Councilman Drale asked that the City Engineer's office check on the ownership of the property and report to the Council at its next meeting.

Councilman Drale read a Resolution adopted by the Six Cities Traffic Committee, requesting that the State Highway Commission of the State of California commence the building of a portion of the San Diego Freeway.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Schwab, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Benstead said that he had been approached by a group of residents of the Victor Tract who are interested in having their area annexed to the City of Torrance, but are concerned about some ties with the Redondo Beach School District.

After some discussion by the Council, City Attorney Hall agreed to check into the matter more thoroughly and prepare a written report for Councilman Benstead so that he can give the people definite information.

Mrs. Herma Tillim of 16914 Osage Street presented to the Council petitions bearing 1457 signatures asking for a compulsory rabies vaccination law to be passed. Others who spoke in favor of such a law were Mrs. Ruth Vaughn of 1724 Juniper Street and Mrs. Ruth Smith of 1837-8th Street, Manhattan Beach.

Mrs. Eileen Goetz of 5029 Milne Drive spoke against the adoption of such a law.

Councilman Blount moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 6:30 P. M. Councilman Blount moved to adjourn. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, no objection, the meeting adjourned.

A. H. Bartholomew

City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Albert Isen

Mayor of the City of Torrance